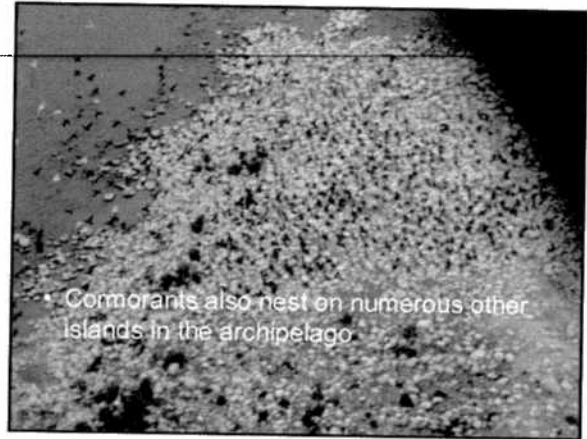


Gull Island has had a 23% increase
in nests since 1997



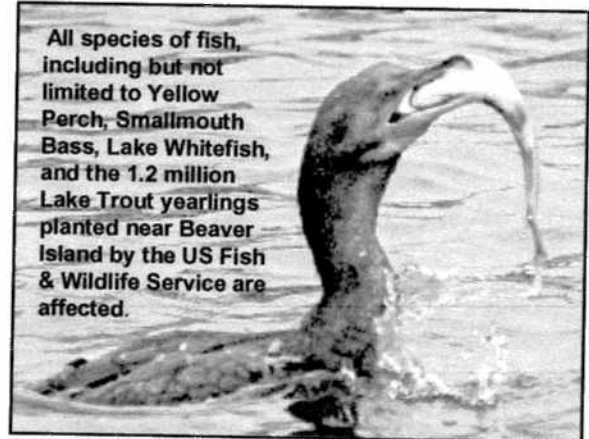
Cormorants also nest on numerous other
islands in the archipelago.



After nesting, cormorant populations climb
to 60,000 in the Beaver Island archipelago
by mid summer. With each cormorant
consuming 1 to 1.5 pounds of fish per day,
close to 30 tons of fish are removed daily
from these waters.

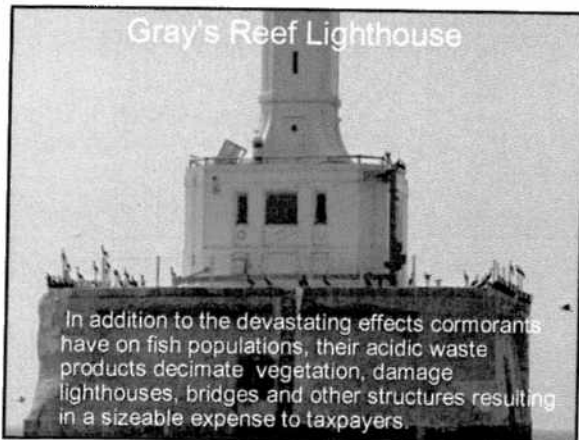


All species of fish,
including but not
limited to Yellow
Perch, Smallmouth
Bass, Lake Whitefish,
and the 1.2 million
Lake Trout yearlings
planted near Beaver
Island by the US Fish
& Wildlife Service are
affected.

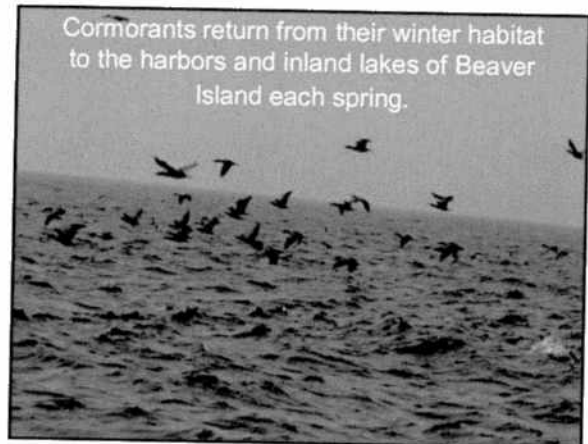


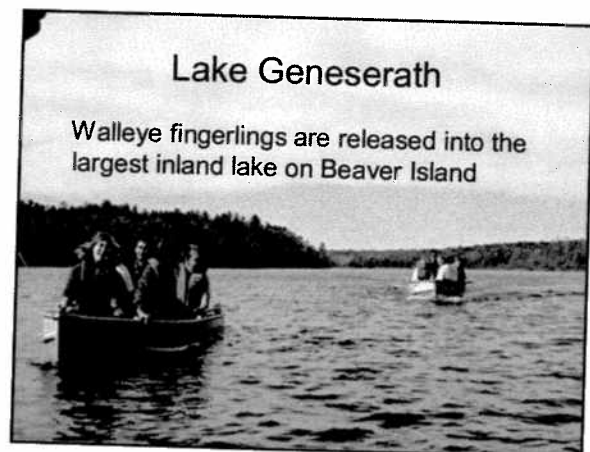
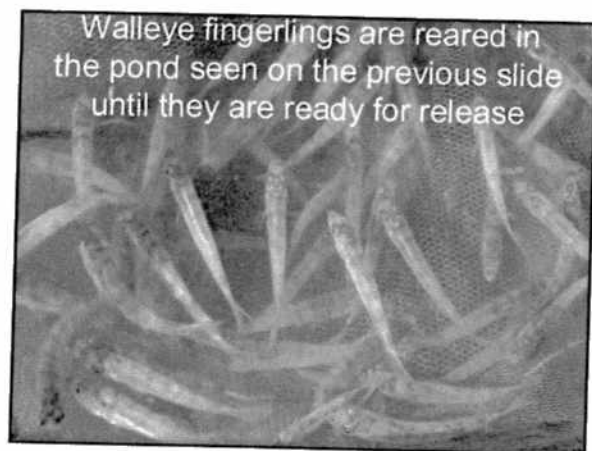
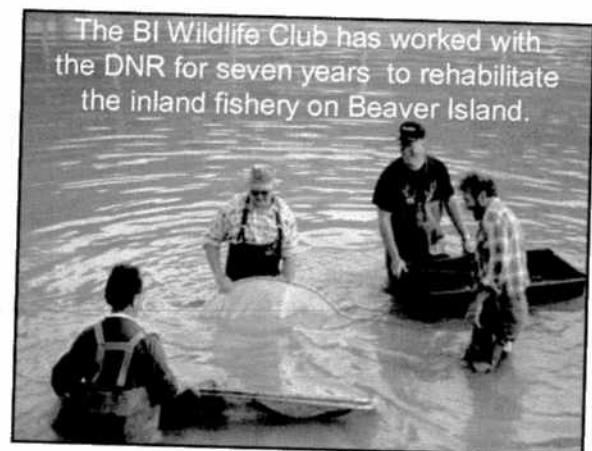
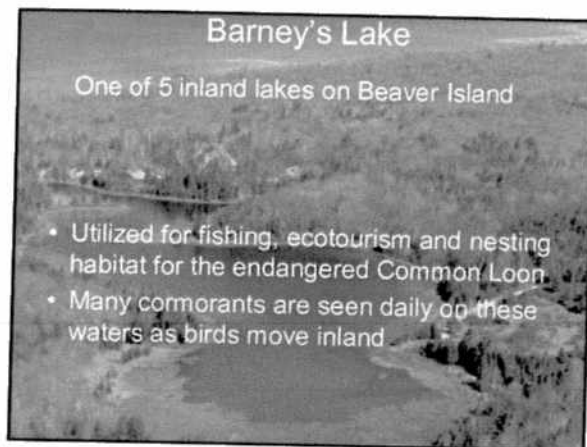
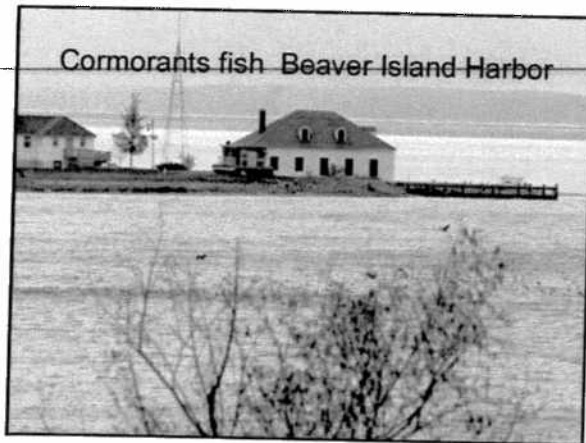
Gray's Reef Lighthouse

In addition to the devastating effects cormorants
have on fish populations, their acidic waste
products decimate vegetation, damage
lighthouses, bridges and other structures resulting
in a sizeable expense to taxpayers.



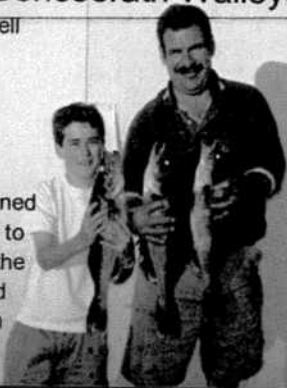
Cormorants return from their winter habitat
to the harbors and inland lakes of Beaver
Island each spring.





Lake Geneserath Walleyes

Last week well over 300 Cormorants fished Lake Geneserath daily. Many concerned citizens want to help protect the Beaver Island fisheries from cormorants



Unanimous Declaration of the Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce

- The Board of Directors of the Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce requests your funding and support for the efforts to control and reduce the population of Double Crested Cormorants in the Beaver Island archipelago.
- At one time the cormorant population in northern Lake Michigan numbered a few thousand and the area around Beaver Island was one of the finest small mouth bass sports fisheries in the world. The yellow perch was also abundant and easily accessible by family fishing groups in the Beaver Island harbor, often called Paradise Bay. Not any more! Fishing is no longer a reason to visit our island.

Chamber Declaration (continued)

- Fishing for perch and bass once brought many additional visitors to Beaver Island, particularly in the spring and fall outside the traditional short summer tourist season. The cormorant caused devastation of the population of these fish has had a significant economic impact on the highly tourism dependent Beaver Island economy.
- After many years and numerous scientific studies there is no longer any doubt that the huge increase in cormorant numbers (an estimated 50,000 in the archipelago) has had a terrible impact on sport fishing and the related Beaver Island economy. Cormorant numbers must be reduced and controlled so that the fish populations will have a chance to recover. We ask that you support the necessary funding and call to action the appropriate state agencies.
- Best wishes from America's Emerald Isle, Steve West, Executive Director

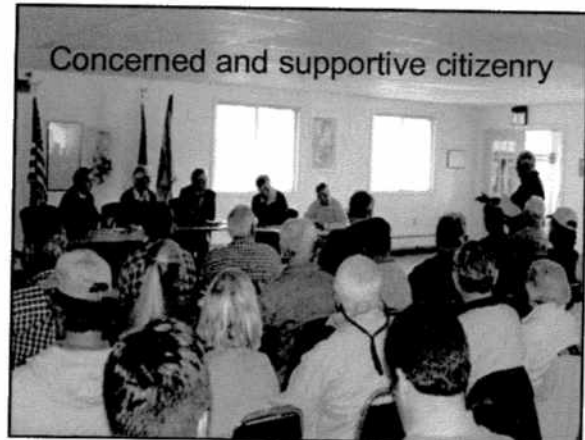
2006 Legislative Efforts



Natural Resources Appropriations Committee Met on Beaver Island

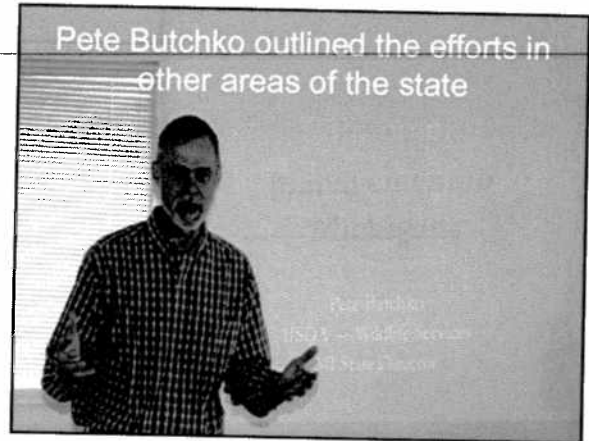


Concerned and supportive citizenry





USDA-VS, MIDNR, BIWC met with the State Legislators to discuss the situation



Pete Butchko outlined the efforts in other areas of the state

Pete Butchko
USDA - Wildlife Services
1 State House

What is being done now

- USDA Wildlife Services has received permission to begin cormorant control on Pismire and Gull Island.
- Under the leadership of USDA-Wildlife Services personnel, a team of local volunteers and biologists from the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians are conducting control measures on Pismire Island while we meet.
- Tomorrow we will conduct cormorant control on Gull Island
- This will be a long and difficult campaign to reduce the cormorant population in the archipelago to allow fish species rebuild their populations and return the fishery to the Beaver Islands.

Future Efforts

- We have a committed core of local volunteers ready to assist all organizations in dealing with the cormorant problem.
- The Bi Wildlife Club has pledged 1/3 of its financial resources to assist in this effort.
- USDA Wildlife Services and Tribal organizations are working with us to address the cormorant issue.



The Beaver Island community asks this committee to direct the Michigan DNR Wildlife Division to join us in addressing the cormorant problem. Thank you.

Are there any questions?